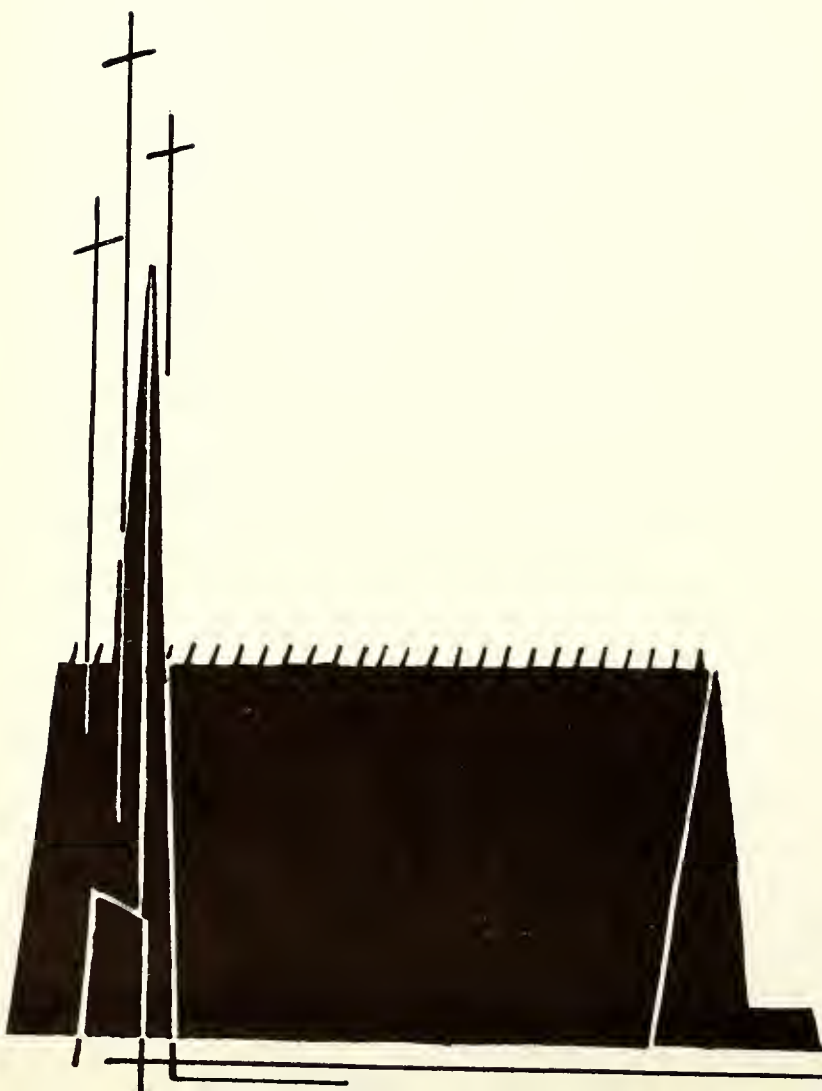




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Concordia College (Fort  
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Spire





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*I said to myself, what is this school*

# The Spire

*Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

*1960-1961*

To sit down and to systematically examine the question "What is Concordia Senior College" is as difficult for me as for an existential philosopher to define existentialism, or for a Timex to explain why it ticks, or for a maple tree to say why it grows in spring. Of course, many would say that Concordia Senior College is a complex of Saarinen buildings situated in north-east Indiana, inhabited by students and faculty whose common goal is the training of pre-theological candidates. But such a definition is too mechanistic.

Perhaps you're a scholar. You thrill to Goethe in the original. You can account for every dagesh in Joshua 24. You can spew out Einstein's theory like hot pea soup. Or maybe your interest lies in athletics. You were runner-up in fall tennis, or glowed on the basketball floor, or batted cleanup in baseball, or got a couple of holes-in-one over at Foster. Maybe you hanker after liturgics. You can match up certain colors with certain days in your sleep. The epistle side is to the audience's left, the Gospel is right. The candles are to be lit no later than 9:33. Maybe you're just a good all-around Joe College man. Don't spend over six hours on a term paper—ever. Go to chapel if it's convenient and if the sidewalks are cleared. Be kind, in a kind sort of way. Skip a few classes and take off for the weekend, just to stay with the gang.

The question must be put to every student: "Who are you?" If we, as students, wish to answer unanimously, "We are the faceless men," then the college can be nothing but a sepulchre—whitewashed to look nice—a preacher-machine in disguise. But perhaps Concordia Senior College is opportunity: spiritual, educational, physical, social, human. Our spiritual opportunity puts a framework—God's framework—around all of the others. The Biblical doctrines of redemption, sanctification, faith, and stewardship don't remove individual initiative. And the definition of this school is inexorably tied up with a call to vibrant action—individual action.

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What is a student? He is an odd individual who is different. He goes to school to prepare for something or Someone. A fellow wonders in the desert; a little traveling music and we will be on our way either to Miller's or that little Greek joint down the road, or we might just really feel like living it up and go to the Gas House. We have it so—rough.



*Satan, why do I let you!  
Why can't I let  
God overpower me?  
Why can't the eyes of  
My heart see the eternal light?  
Oh, rotten mouth that yells  
"God, my God."  
Oh, faulty heart replying  
"Even so, come Lord Satan."  
I slap God in the face  
And He looks down,  
As I have often seen  
Fathers look at their children.  
I step on Christ  
And Christ lifts me up.*





*Let's go check the mail! All right; Sounds like a peck-in' good idea!!! Anybody . . . for . . . Coffee . . . yawn . . . yawn . . . Boy am I tired . . . Boy that was really a good service this morning . . . I thought the whole-works was rather boring . . . Let's go get a cup of coffee.*









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*I wonder if Christ came through this morning!!!????*

*kneel      stand      sit*

*stand      sit kneel      stand*

*sit                      kneel*

*music . . .*

*music . . .*

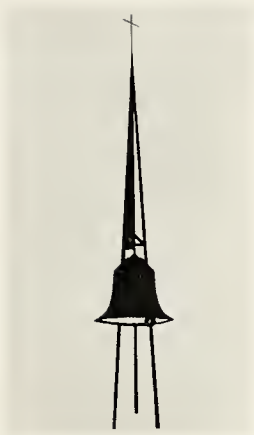
*music.*







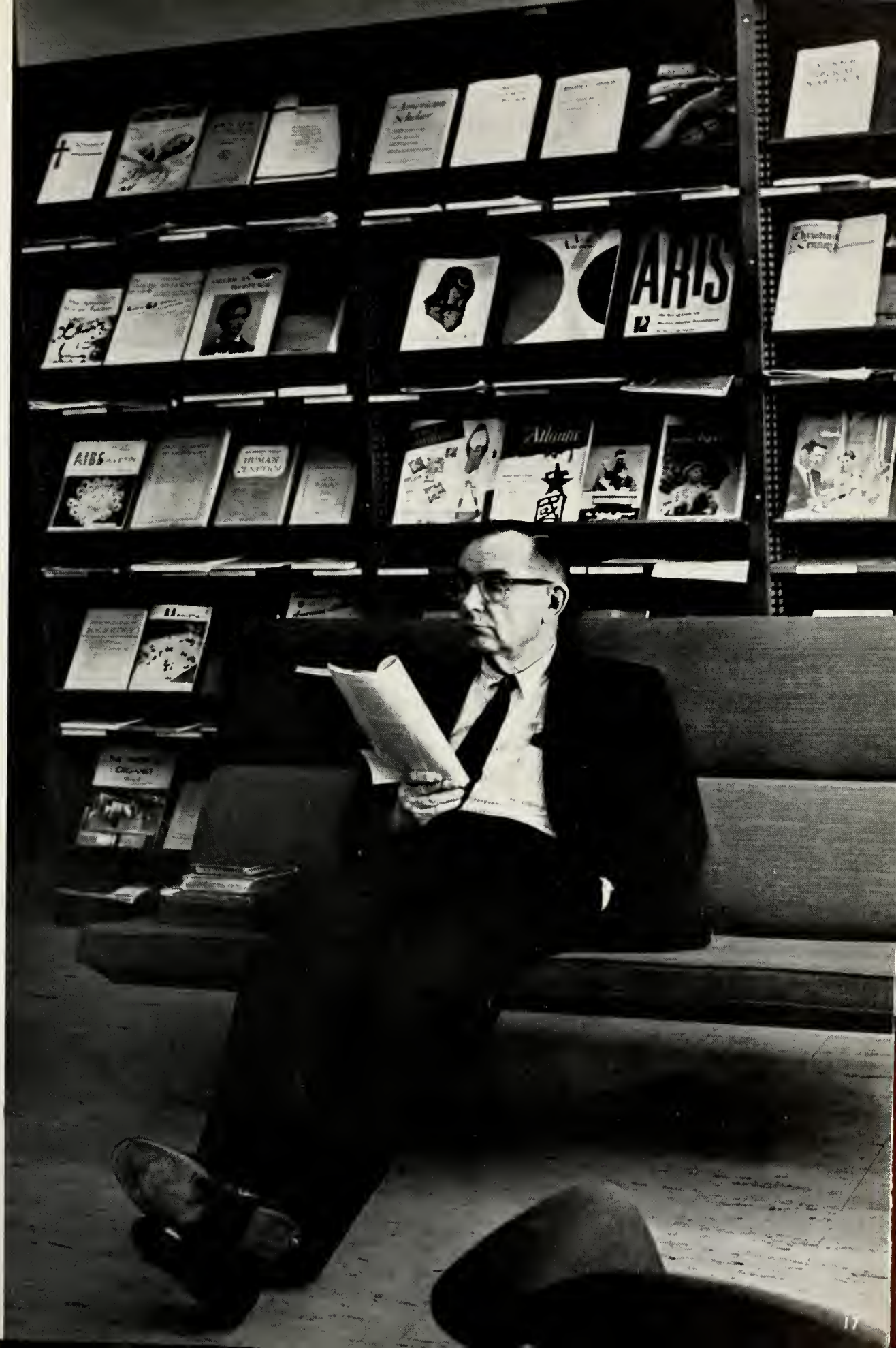




*It's minds wandering in an  
endless jungle of thought.*



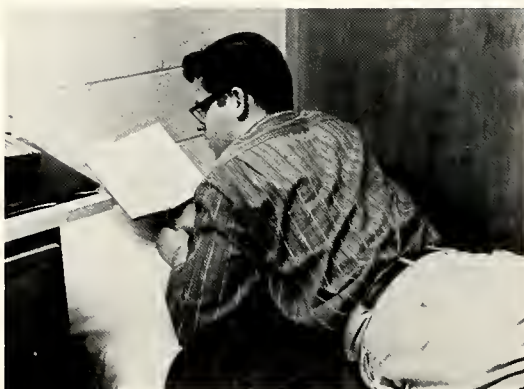




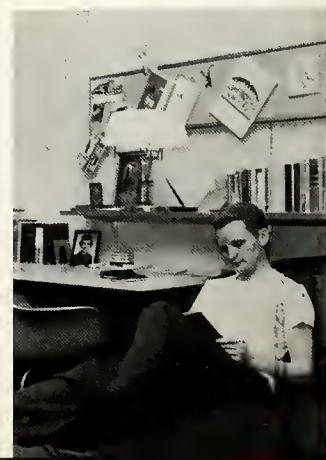


*It's a mosaic of smiles, companionship (fellowship), wrinkled brows, baggy eyes, smoke-filled rooms, ashes surrounding ashless ash trays.*









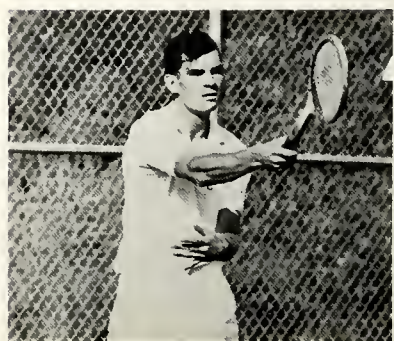
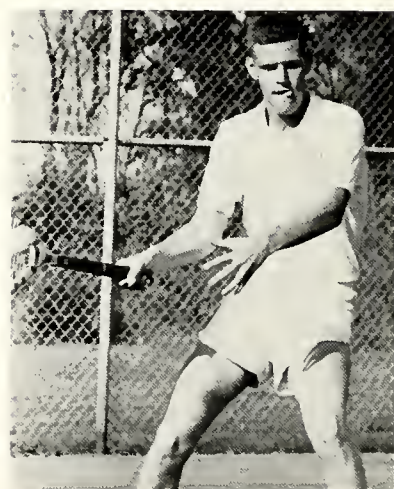
*It's sorrow and joy blended  
other in a mighty struggle.  
It's the torture of uncertainty within  
for certainty (sometimes to the point of  
frustration, the feeling as if you were  
apart the soul.  
It's the communication of desire  
It's trying to make your silent  
It's a maze of activity –*



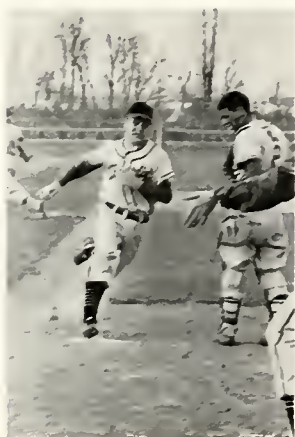
*together and yet opposing each  
 the individual as he strives day by day  
 despair) meeting frustration upon  
 gasping for air. It's agony ripping  
 and reality.  
 screams heard.  
 some get caught up in it.*







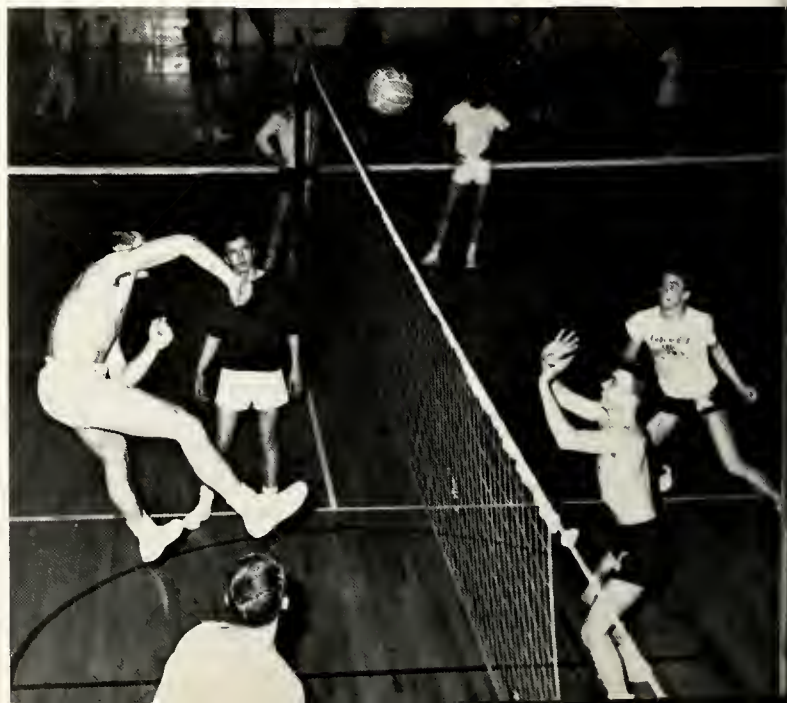






*The annual visit of the Doughnut Brigade.*







*A young man's fancy.*



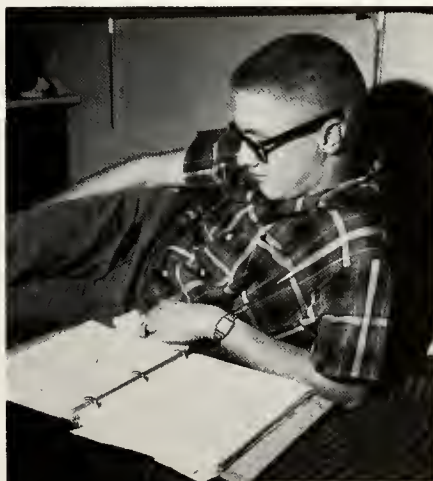
*It's looking back (once in a while) and trying to piece the puzzle together—trying to form a hazy picture—striving for a perspective—some succeed in forming the picture from the various phases, the various episodes (of activities, studies, conversations, meditations, etc.). Out of the search for a goal, the search for fulfillment—comes the answer—the goal lies in the search itself.*





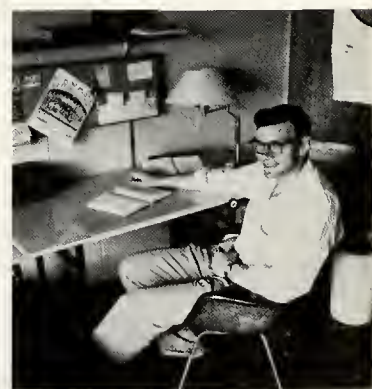
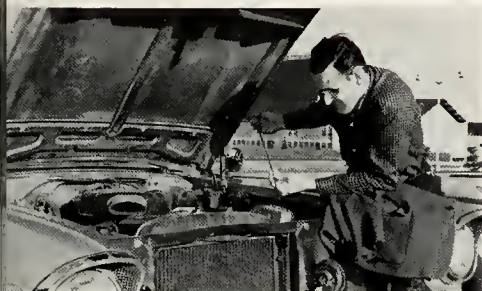


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*What makes the interaction of people on this campus unique is the fact that the people are you and I. If you weren't here or I weren't here, this school wouldn't be this school; it would be another.*











*It's Pictures at an Exhibition.*

*It's a gathering of poets, philosophers, musicians, painters, giants, persons, and people.*

*It's a two-act play with all the lighting effects, sound effects, props, stagehands, choreographers, etc.—but no director—Cfr. Shakespeare?—yet it's not acting, it's being—reality—*

*Our masks are taken off and we are unfolded before each other's eyes.*









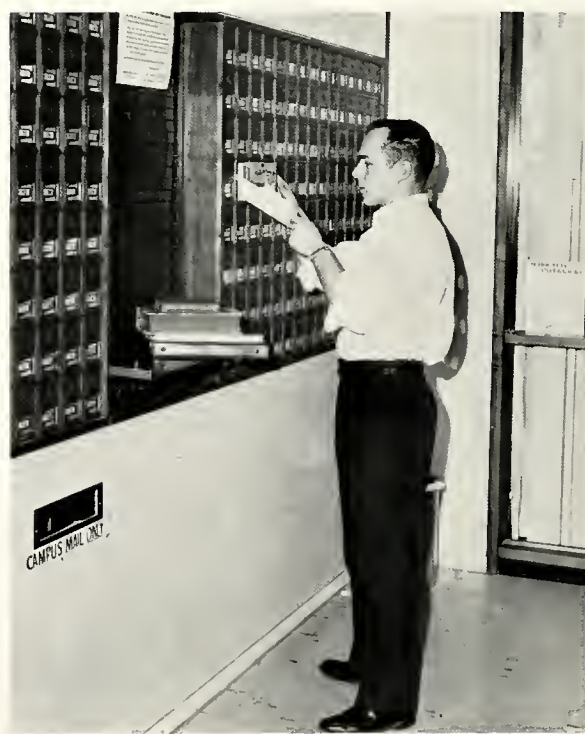


*It's a chorus of (nerve-racking) class bells, tele-  
phones, loudspeakers, footsteps, shouting, laughing,  
etc., etc.—and the Cantus Firmus is the chanting  
of the Te Deum.*

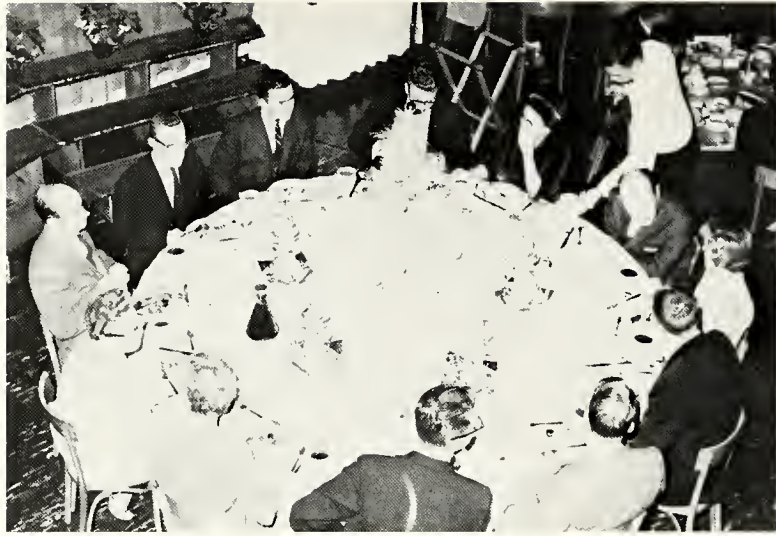








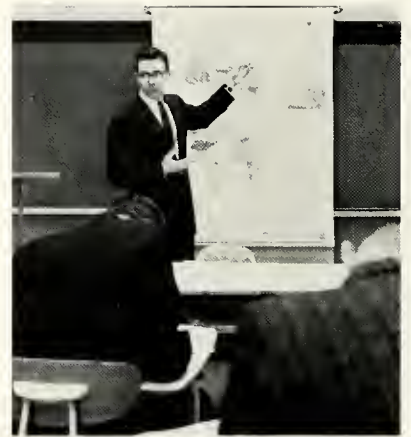
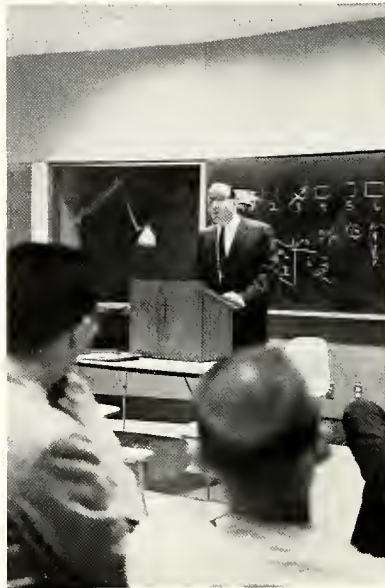
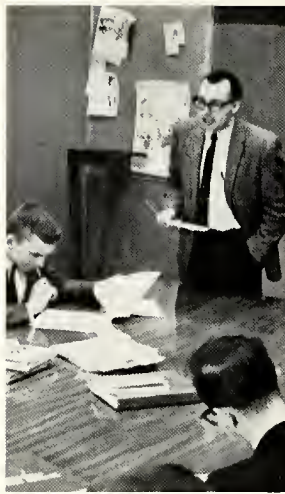
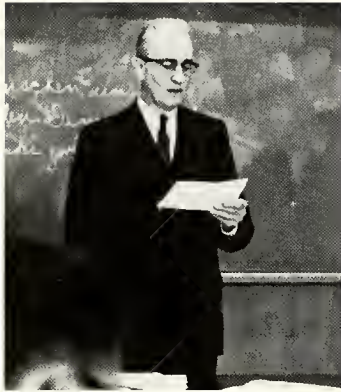


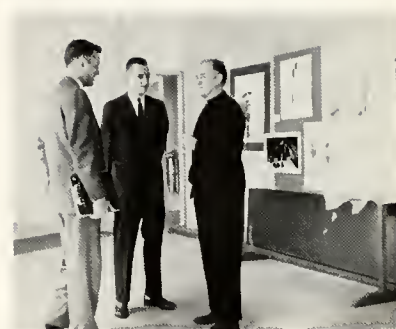
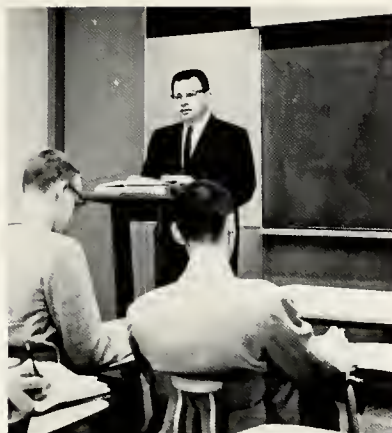
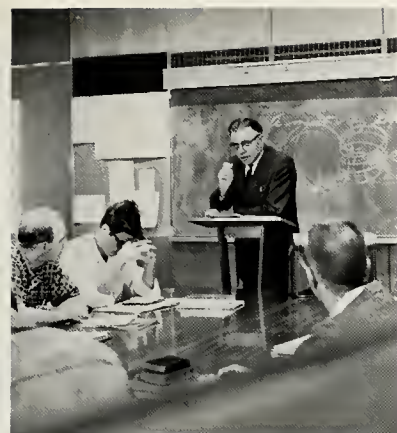


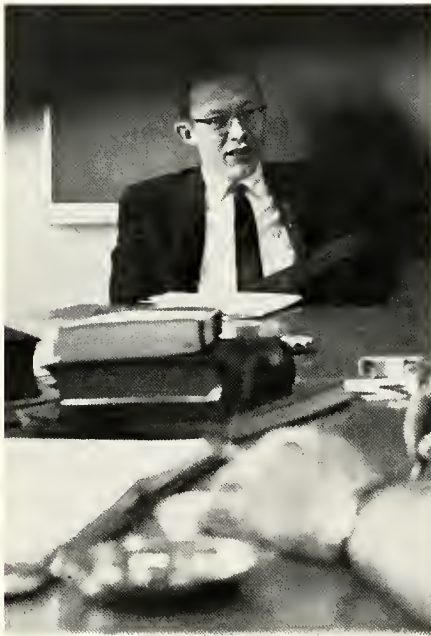




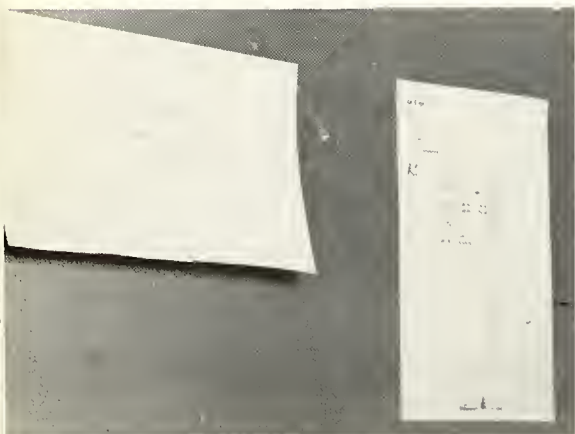










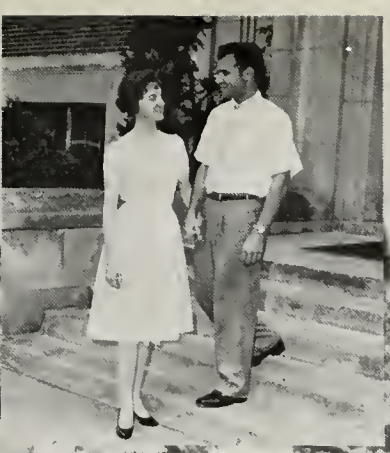


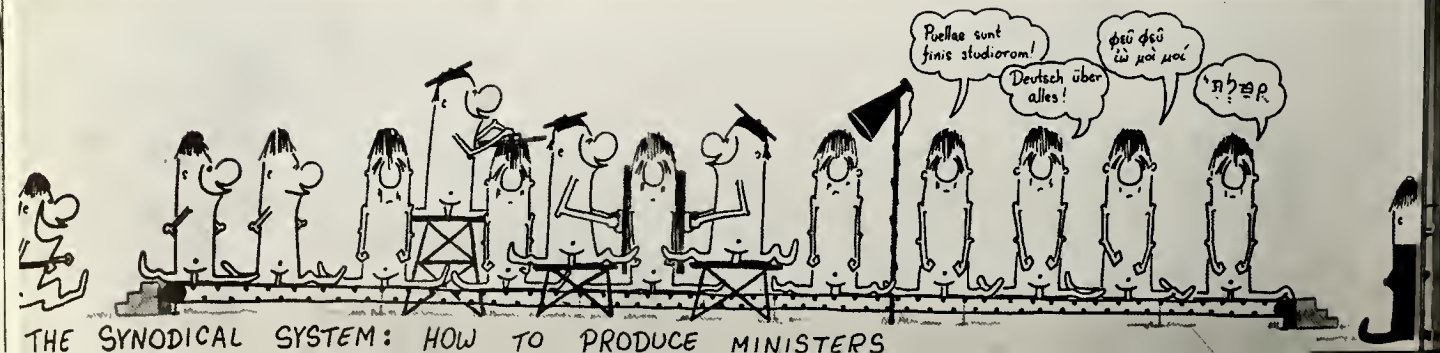




*Steep the chapel roof, its walls ascending  
Till each clasps the other. Drawn, attracted,  
Bound by love, they seem to sing God's praise with  
Silent prayer, all sterile talk subtracted.*

I hear nothing save her voice and His;  
And of true loves, these two are truest;  
The latter truer;  
The prior, true.  
Never had I felt this simple feeling,  
But now is not never,  
And now is its time of coming.  
The sensation caused by its gentle touch  
Is newness; new only to me.  
Like a stranger arising within me  
And walking about, it lingers ever on.  
Pacing up, down, to and fro,  
This friendly gad-about  
Is not content  
Till he has reached  
And made a lasting impression  
On every ounce of life  
That lies within me.  
Never takes he time to rest!  
Now running;  
Now walking;  
Now talking;  
Now joking and singing;  
And playing  
Upon me;  
Within and throughout me!  
Driving me on; ever onward through life!  
Keeping me;  
Keeping from woes and from weeping;  
Holding me;  
Should'ring each burden and trial;  
Guiding my thoughts and  
Instructing me.  
Stranger no more,  
But a friend he remains;  
A great and considerate friend.  
It's His voice  
Relating the tale of His off'ring!  
Her laughing; her crying;  
His calling.

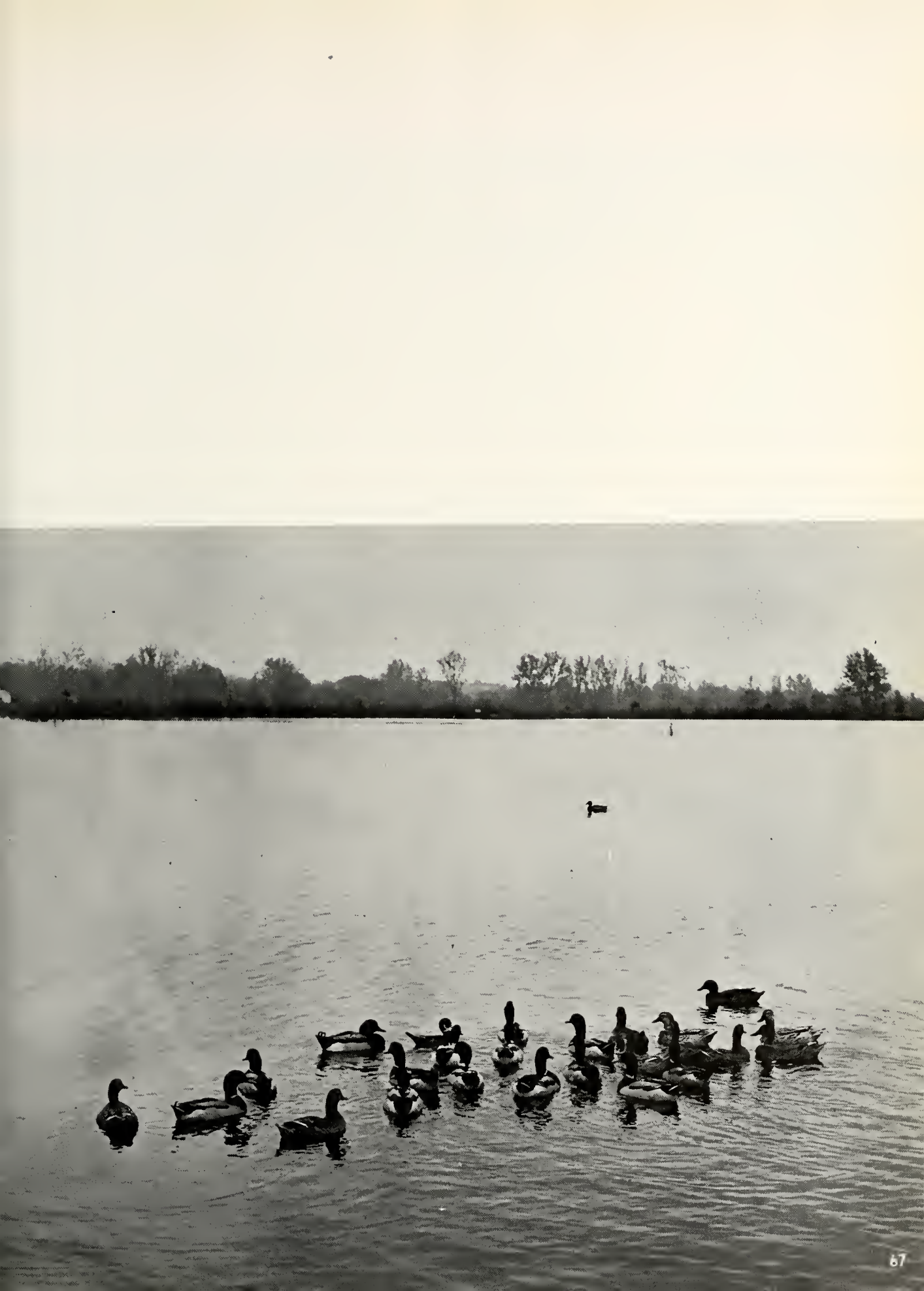




A labyrinth of questions  
A maelstrom of answers  
And no one has the key  
A river where many swim  
And one exists—me  
While others are caught in the flood  
of currents crashing toward a sea  
of eternity I swim  
and yet sometime I am caught in  
a current of deeds, people, things  
And am flung ruthlessly among the  
whirlpools, questions seeking answers finding  
many and not any  
The river is buildings, thoughts, sermons,  
prayers, Maritain things, appearances.  
Many swimmers sometime become the river  
and even the maelstrom into which I'm drawn  
to drown  
The river is boundless yet defined at an  
instant. Some involve themselves in the  
swirling waters while others sun  
themselves on the banks, unconcerned till  
suddenly the bank is gone and they are  
struggling in the waters while former companions  
lie in the sun—peaceful—resting—but I always  
swim and I believe they always swim  
All look for a key  
to answer the questions of a life  
and lives—some more diligently than others,  
some more truthfully than others, some more  
consistently than others, some more painfully than others.  
For this river is a place yet a mirage  
A reality—yet non entity

A place to worship  
A place to play football  
A place to attend classes  
A place to sunbathe  
A place and a mirage  
as real as the reality defined  
within me, by the me, at the instance  
me wishes to account.  
The river  
swirls, tumbles, twists, floods toward  
a destination, a reality which exists  
inside us because of a love, an image  
that exists outside us because of the  
reality within us which was spawned  
by the Creator without us subject  
to doubt and correlation because of the  
unreality of the changing river. We  
swim into the extent of the Maritain things,  
places without us the  
person reborn being as real  
as we can possibly  
make him to the reality within us.  
For nature environment God created the  
reality within which we must have faith  
to believe and this river is the trial  
and the proof of the reality within.  
The place is real because of the Certainty  
of my salvation, which anchors me in  
the river while yet paradoxically I am  
tried by the God who opened the  
floodgates of knowledge. A river where my  
Creator anchored me.



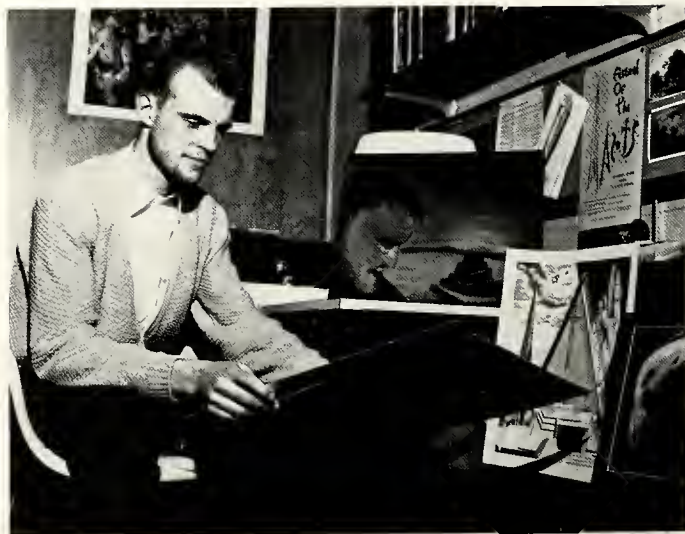
































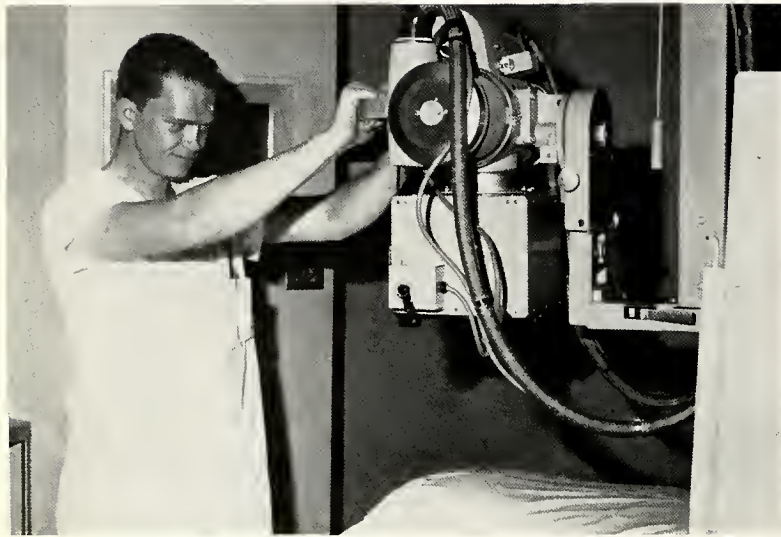














*This school is the total interplay of forces which mold the life of each individual student.*







Jesus is the Son of God who loved me so much that He became man and went into death to save me from my sin. Jesus is also He who rose in greatest splendor from the grave and so proved that He had completely wiped away my sin. Thus Jesus is He to Whom I have given myself wholly in an answering love to His redeeming love. Jesus is He who fills my whole life and gives meaning to my relations to others. But I constantly turn from Him in my sin, yet He removes the sin from me because He loves me and fills me with the peace and joy of His forgiveness. Because of what He does to me, I can love and serve men and can bring them this same message of Jesus' love. Jesus is my life.







*On Thursday night it is our joy  
To welcome each Concordia boy  
To know the hour is coming, when  
Their voices will be raised again,  
In songs of love and prayer and praise  
To Him who hallows all our days.*

*But first the Word of God is read,  
And words of kindly counsel said,  
And every one has done his part  
To cheer some lonely, troubled heart.*

*It's success and failure—the happy and the sad, the forgotten and remembered, and out of all this comes the developed—the awakening—the realization—*













*Stand me now and ever in good stead.*



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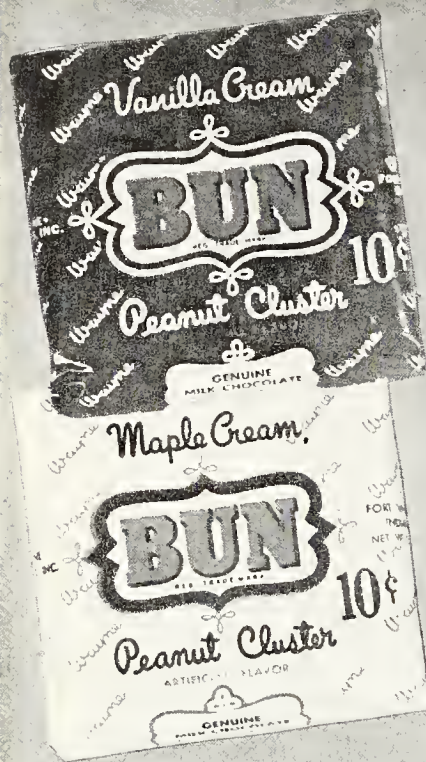
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